GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3409
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
STORAGE AND MARKETING PROBLEMS FOR POTATOES .
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of Potatoes in Punjab has increased posing thereby new problems of storages and good marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government to improve the storage and marketing facilities in Punjab in order to ease out the difficulties of poor farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTUR(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): The production of potatoes in Punjab has increased in the recent years. The estimated production of potatoes in the State during 1998-99 was 9.41 lakh metric tonnes as compared to 8.5 lakh metric tonnes in 1997-98. Total capacity available for cold storage in Punjab is for 10.49 lakh metric tonnes. No problem of cold storage and marketing of potatoes has been reported.

(c)to(e): The Government are implementing a Scheme to provide capitalinvestment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce. The Scheme envisages providing capital investment subsidy amounting to 25 per cent of the project cost subject to maximum of Rs.50.00 lakh per project. Through the Scheme, 10 projects with a capacity of 34875 metric tonnes have been sanctioned in Punjab. Besides, NHB is also providing marketing infrastructure support to the State.